



Public Agency Disaster Assistance

Emergency Management Division
Washington Military Department

Purpose

The Public Assistance Program enables local and state governments, special purpose districts, private non-profit organizations, and Indian tribes to recover from the immediate and long-term impacts of disasters. The program provides state and federal funds to local governmental agencies for a portion of the costs for the repair and restoration of damaged public facilities, as well as to reimburse the agencies for a portion of the costs associated with emergency work and debris removal due to the disaster.

Background

As soon as possible after the disaster declaration, the state conducts meetings for government agencies, special purpose districts, private non-profit organizations, and Indian Tribes that suffered damage. At the meetings, information is presented about the reimbursement of local costs for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair to damaged public facilities such as roads, bridges, buildings and utilities. Public disaster assistance applications must be submitted to the state within 30 days of the declaration of a Presidential Disaster. Public disaster assistance regulations are found in 44 CFR 206, and Public Law 93-288, as amended.

Project Worksheets

Following the Public Assistance information meetings, local governments work with state and federal staff to prepare repair worksheets for each damaged facility. The worksheets describe, in detail, needed repairs to return the facility back to its pre-disaster condition and provide a cost estimate.

Projects

When repair projects have been approved for funding by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, then repairs may be started. It is the responsibility of the agency that owns the damaged public facility to make the repairs. Funding is provided through the Emergency Management Division with the federal government reimbursing 75 percent of the eligible costs and typically the state and affected agency equally sharing the remaining 25 percent.

Federal and state officials prepared over 7,200 project estimates on public facilities damaged in the 1995 winter storms, February 1996 flood, 1996 winter storms, March 1997 flood, May 1998 flood, and the Kelso Landslide. Federal and state funds needed to restore or repair damaged facilities in these disasters will exceed an estimated \$238.4 million. The Nisqually Earthquake has involved more than 1,800 projects with an estimated cost of \$75 million.

Contact

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